

MAR 23 1967

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP7

U.S. Says It Issued Visa in Arranging for Stalin's Daughter to Leave India

By JOHN W. FINNEY
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, March 22—

The State Department acknowledged today that Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, had been granted a United States visa. The department left open the possibility that she would eventually be granted political asylum in the United States.

For the first time since her departure from the Soviet Union became known two weeks ago, the State Department gave a relatively detailed account of the United States role in arranging for her to leave India and take temporary refuge in Switzerland.

'Did Not Wish to Return'

According to the account, Mr. Alliluyeva, who uses her other's maiden name, was given a visa to come to the United States to "facilitate" her departure from India.

Shortly after leaving India, the account went on, she decided her motives might be misunderstood if she went directly to the United States and she

went instead to Switzerland to consider her plans.

The State Department spokes-
of how the United States provided the following account:
mfm how the United States assisted Mrs. Alliluyeva in traveling from New Delhi to Rome and then to a hideaway in Switzerland.

When she appeared at the United States embassy in New Delhi on the evening of March 6, "she made it clear that she did not wish to return to the Soviet Union, and decided at the same time it would be best if she did not remain in India."

She expressed "a request for safe haven in the United States as well as other countries." In these circumstances, "and for humanitarian reasons, our officials in New Delhi agreed to facilitate her departure from India by issuing her a United

States visa without deciding one way or the other on her request for asylum."

The State Department spokes-
man was unable to specify whether she had been granted a visitor's visa, which would permit her to remain only temporarily in the United States, or an immigrant visa, which would permit her to take up residence in this country.

A visa was not required for her departure from New Delhi, but an American visa on her Soviet passport facilitated her entry into Italy, where she remained for a few days.

Mrs. Alliluyeva was accompanied on her trip by Robert F. Rayle, a second secretary at the United States Embassy and its only Russian-speaking staff member. Dispatches from New Delhi, Rome and Geneva have

identified him as an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, but this has not been acknowledged in Washington.

Shortly after the departure from New Delhi, the McCloskey account continued, "she concluded that her motives for being unwilling to return to the Soviet Union or to remain in India might be misunderstood if she were to proceed directly to the United States."

Accordingly, "she expressed an interest in temporary residence in Switzerland, where she felt she could decide on her future plans in an atmosphere that was amiable and free of tensions," the account continued. This request was relayed to the Swiss Government, which granted her permission to remain in Switzerland for the time being.

"If in time she should decide

her interests would be better served by coming to the United States," Mr. McCloskey said.

her request would be given prompt and appropriate consideration."

While the State Department account attributed the decision not to come to the United States solely to Mrs. Alliluyeva, it is known that the Administration had reservations about permitting her to take political asylum in the United States.

The Administration feared that such a step could cause diplomatic complications with the Soviet Union at a time when progress was being made in improving East-West relations.

However, it is believed that she eventually may be granted asylum without undue complications after interest in her case has subsided.

To a certain extent, this at-

titude has been prompted by domestic political criticism, particularly from conservative Republican ranks, over the apparent refusal of the Administration to grant political asylum to a refugee from the Soviet Union. But it also appeared that the Administration has been attempting to pave the way for her entry into the United States in discussions with the Soviet Union.

Mr. McCloskey confirmed that the United States has "communicated" with the Soviet Union about the case. He declined to go into the nature of the conversations, but apparently the United States has been assuring the Soviet Union that it had no hand in Mrs. Alliluyeva's defection and has been inquiring into the Soviet reaction if she were admitted to the United States.

STATINTL

CPYRGHT